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1-7519

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Operations, DD/P

SUBJECT: Recent Developments in the Operations of Project DTLINEN

REFERENCE: Memorandum for Chief, PP, dated 1 April 1955,  
Subject: Administrative Harassment Operations

Summary: Recent events on the German scene indicate that the Kampfgruppe gegen Unmenschlichkeit (Fighting Group Against Inhumanity) (KgU), a West Berlin resistance organization which is subsidized by CIA under Project DTLINEN, may become involved in unfavorable publicity. It has also become the subject of some German governmental pressure. We are forwarding this memorandum, summarizing events, for your information.

The Stephan Affair

1. In February 1954, Ernst Tillich, Principal Agent of DTLINEN and leader of the KgU, engaged the services of one Werner-Heinz Stephan. It was then determined that Stephan's alleged high level SfS information was worthless and that, in addition, he had peddled false information to a number of intelligence organizations. The KgU therefore broke off contact with Stephan in August 1954.

2. On 20 April 1955 the Berlin Base was informed that the Berlin police were preparing to press charges against Stephan for intelligence swindling and that Stephan probably would try to incriminate all those with whom he had been involved, and the KgU in particular. Stephan's main point of attack against the KgU was an allegedly current "list" of West Germans whom, Stephan claimed, Tillich was interested in neutralizing politically. As this list included some SPD members, a few of the SPD leaders were inclined to believe this false charge, an inclination strengthened by the fact that Tillich, a former member of the SPD, has repeatedly incurred their enmity since both his speeches and the propaganda material prepared by the KgU have adhered to Adenauer's and the United States' foreign policy objectives and, consequently, have often been against the policy of the SPD. Subsequent Berlin Base investigation confirmed the falsity of Stephan's charges but disclosed that a somewhat similar list actually had been compiled in early 1950 by the Kampfbund gegen Unmenschlichkeit, the West German affiliate of the KgU. Tillich had explained at that time to West German authorities who came into possession of this list that this represented unevaluated data received by the Kampfbund, which had been compiled with

Document No. ulterior motive in mind, but solely for the purpose of comparison with No Change KgU file. The SPD leaders have apparently been satisfied with this explanation.

Declassification.

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Auth.: HR 70-3

Date: 09 OCT 1980

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3. The actual arrest of Stephan on 22 June resulted in one newspaper, Die Welt, bringing up the matter of a "list" and Tillich's alleged connection thereto. Although the KgU has asked for a retraction, other newspapers may pick up Stephan's story, particularly if the subject is brought up during Stephan's trial. Ernst Tillich and/or his deputy, who have assisted the Berlin police in their investigation of Stephan, may have to appear as witnesses in the Stephan trial.

East German "Show Trial"

4. As described in reference memorandum, the main activity of the KgU consists in the conduct of administrative harassment operations, and for this reason the organization has become one of the prime targets of the East German security forces, the SfS. Although losses have been light in relation to the scope and dangerousness of the task involved, the SfS recently propagandized a grandiose "show trial" of five of the KgU's East German co-workers, which concluded on 23 June. This trial was designed to demonstrate that "agent centers" are maintained in West Berlin for the sole purpose of disrupting the progress of the GDR, but that these agents are bound to be apprehended by the vigilance of the SfS. The arrested agents were accused of entirely false charges of sabotage in addition to administrative harassment actions which had, in fact, been carried out. For the first time, death sentences were proclaimed on KgU members, with two of the five being so sentenced.

Kaiser Ministry Representations

5. A recent dispatch from the Berlin Base stated that Franz Thedieck, State Secretary of the Kaiser Ministry had informed the Principal Agent of [ ] on 9 May that "he is not prepared and cannot logically justify continued Kaiser Ministry support and/or endorsement of CIA-sponsored or supported organizations operating in Germany and Berlin despite a common goal without more knowledge of their activities, financing, policies, and plans". Furthermore, Thedieck, despite CIA assurances to the contrary, felt that CIA did not intend to eventually run these organizations jointly with, or turn them over to, the Germans, but rather that CIA intended to continue to run them unilaterally despite the advent of German sovereignty.

6. On 25 June, Herr von Dellingshausen, speaking for his superior, Thedieck, informed our Bonn liaison officer that the Kaiser Ministry was unequivocally opposed to the KgU's administrative harassment activity. Von Dellingshausen further stated that Thedieck had raised the likelihood that the West German government, in official statements for East and West German audiences, would disclaim any connection or endorsement of administrative harassment actions should they continue. This action undoubtedly was precipitated by the East German trial referred to above.

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Current Status

7. The situation as of to-day is as follows:

a. There is a potential for unfavorable KgU publicity. The Bonn Base will continue to make every effort with the SPD to contain or minimize any SPD action relative to the KgU. Likewise Berlin Base will attempt to minimize the possibility that KgU matters are introduced into the Stephan trial.

b. The Berlin Base has been asked for information on the KgU by General Honnen, U. S. Military Commander in Berlin, and will brief him accordingly.

c. We have suggested to the field that the Chief of the German Station should contact directly Dr. Hans Globke, State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery, to discuss generally the status of our Berlin-based mass organizations and the issues raised by Thedieck, and also to arrange for the establishment of regular formal meetings at the appropriate intelligence liaison level, by means of which the German government would be provided a forum for its views. Should administrative harassment unavoidably have to be discussed, it was suggested that it be demonstrated to Dr. Globke that these operations constitute one of the most forceful and successful means which have prevented full consolidation of the GDR regime's authority.

Chief, Eastern European Division

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